

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 22 as lacking novelty and / or inventiveness over the prior art, notably US 6,711,297 to Chang, taken individually (Claims 1, 3-5, 8-11, 19 and 20), together with US 6,397,259 to Lincke (claims 2 and 13), together with US 6,801,665 to Atsumi (claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 21 and 22), together with US 6,608,933 to Dowell (claims 12 and 16), and together with Dowell in view of Lincke (claims 17 and 18).

Applicant respectfully amends claims 1, 8, 13 and 19 to better explain the differences between the present invention and Chang's technology, showing why the present invention is novel and inventive thereover, and files new dependent claims 23 and 24.

The present invention relates to three dimensional imaging for mapping, i.e. cartographical applications – see Paragraph [0037]. The navigational inputs allow not just two dimensional x, y control as required for panning two dimensional images, but also rotational and z height – See Paragraph [0036].

In contradistinction, Chang's technology relates to methods and apparatus for dynamic transfer of image data. The thrust of the technology is to allow transfer of large image data files over the Internet. As is clear from the abstract thereof, Chang's technology is directed to medical imaging applications. The images are flat, two dimensional images, albeit of three dimensional bodies. In contradistinction, the present invention is directed to mapping / topographic applications, from an image viewpoint that encompasses a viewing frustum placed within a three-dimensional space over the defined image.

Examiner alleges that "selecting, based on an operator controlled image viewpoint relative to a predetermined image... is disclosed in Column 9 lines 40 to 60 of the application. Applicant respectfully submits that although "mapping" is related to in Column 9 lines 40 to 60, this does not imply cartographic applications. Chang relates to panning and zooming (Column 9 line 43), but this implies changing the viewing resolution only, and does not imply changing the viewing angle.

Chang does not describe or even suggest mapping in a cartographical sense and does not relate to three dimensional image processing, depth of image for Chang relates only to zoom functions.

US 6,608,933 to Dowell et al. relates to loss tolerant compressed image data. US 6,801,665 to Atsumi relates to a method and apparatus for compressing and decompressing images. US 6,397,259 to Lincke relates to Method, system and apparatus for packet minimized communications.

None of the four citations describe mapping / topographic applications. None of the four citations use an image viewpoint that encompasses a viewing frustum placed within a three-dimensional space over the defined image. None relate to rotational and z height parameters.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention as presently claimed is novel and inventive over US 6,711,297 to Chang, US 6,608,933 to Dowell, US 6,801,665 to Atsumi and US 6,397,259 to Lincke taken individually or together.

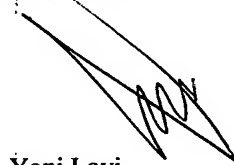
New Claim 23 is original claim 17 in independent form, and New Claim 24 is original claim 18, dependent thereon.

Examiner claims a lack of inventive step in claim 23 in light of US 6,711,297 to Chang together with Dowell in view of Lincke (claims 17 and 18). Applicant respectfully submits that viewing an inventive step in view of a mosaic of three separate applications is at best obvious in retrospect only and there is no a priori reason why anyone would consider combining these three pieces of prior art to arrive at the method of claim 23, prior to the present disclosure, and claim 23 is thus deserving of a narrow patent in this crowded field. If claim 23 is patentable, claim 24 which is dependent thereupon is also patentable.



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